

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 AID-05 EB-08
/110 W

-----073425 191356Z /43

R 181454Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6783
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL RELATIONS: FURTHER COVERAGE OF THE
EMBARGO ISSUE

REF: ATHENS 6018

1. SUBSEQUENT TO THE GOG COMMENT REPORTED IN PARA 1 OF
REFTEL, A "RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE" GOG SOURCE, ACCORDING
TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (WE SUSPECT FOREIGN
MINISTER RALLIS), STATED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPROVE
THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. GREECE CONSIDERS
THE QUESTION OF THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO TO BE AN INTERNAL
U.S. MATTER, THE SOURCE WENT ON, BUT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS VIEW
THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES.
THE SOURCE RECALLED THAT PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS HAD CLARIFIED
THE GOG POSITION IN THIS RESPECT WHILE HE WAS IN THE U.S.
AND ESPECIALLY DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS OVER THE WEEKEND ALSO CARRIED REPORTS
THAT VETERANS ORGANIZATION LEADER RUGGIERO (REFTEL) HAD
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ISSUED ANOTHER MEMORANDUM WITH A REVISED VERSION OF WHAT WAS
ALLEGEDLY SAID DURING THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING CONCERNING GOG
VIEWS ON THE EMBARGO. ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS, THE GREEK
PRIME MINISTER IS REPORTED IN THE REVISED MEMORANDUM
(DATED JULY 10) AS HAVING STATED REPEATEDLY DURING HIS RECENT
VISIT TO THE US THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD HAVE
UNFAVORABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR GREECE AND CYPRUS, AND WOULD NOT

SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE US AND THE ALLIANCE. (HOWEVER, TO VIMA, IN A STORY DATELINED NEW YORK FROM EFSTATHIADIS, CLAIMED THAT EVEN IN HIS REVISED MEMORANDUM RUGGIERO INDICATED THAT WHITE HOUSE SOURCES MAINTAINED GREECE HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES IT WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. THE GREEK INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, RUGGIERO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, HAD WRITTEN TO INFORM HIM THAT IT WAS INACCURATE TO SAY THE GOG ACCEPTS THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO.)

3. OTHER PRESS REPORTS OVER THE WEEKEND STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS LOBBYING IN SUPPORT OF LIFTING THE TURKISH EMBARGO DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN. HE WAS REPORTED BY TO VIMA AS SAYING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD FACILITATE PROGRESS TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE HAD ALOS MENTIONED TO CHACELLOR SCHMIDT, TO VIMA ALLEGED, THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THE RECENT GREEK-TURKISH MEETING IN ANKARA WAS PRODUCTIVE AND THE PROGRESS MADE BETWEEN ATHENS AND ANKARA WOULD BE CONTINUED.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS06105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780296-0443
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780750/aaaabptd.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1de8f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 6018
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1980022
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL RELATIONS: FURTHER COVERAGE OF THE EMBARGO ISSUE
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1de8f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014